

4 May 1987
MBK-7009

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, Foreign Broadcast Information Service

THROUGH: Chief, Operations Group

SUBJECT: Monthly Report -- Bangkok Bureau -- April 1987

I. GENERAL

April was a busy month for the Bureau. Parliamentary elections in Vietnam and Indonesia along with very important (and close) party elections in Malaysia; a speech by the Pakistani president at the annual opening of parliament; visits to Bangkok by the foreign ministers of China, South Korea, the UK, Indonesia, Singapore, Nepal along with many lesser officials to attend the 40th anniversary session of the UN's Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific were some of the things that occupied the Bureau in April. The first Predictable Major Event in the Bureau's coverage area since that program was inaugurated occurred in April -- Vietnamese National Assembly elections. It was overshadowed, however, by the nonpredictable events in Sri Lanka surrounding the car bomb deaths of 113 people in Colombo. This caused that government to change its policy toward the Tamil insurgents and scrap a unilateral cease-fire and attack a number of terrorist bases. The ROSET played an important part in the Bureau's coverage, particularly regarding Indonesia and Sri Lanka.

II. OPERATIONS

A. Monitorial/Editorial

1. The understaffed Cambodian Unit covered additional special programs broadcast by Phnom Penh during the 12-18 April period surrounding the traditional Cambodian new year. Coverage yielded a speech on the occasion by Cambodian leader Heng Samrin.

2. April was a very steady month for the Vietnamese Unit, which put out a high volume of copy. Much attention was devoted by the media to preparations for the National Assembly elections on the 19th. On the 16th, a monitor was called in on overtime to help process the 6-take communique on the party Central Committee plenum, which was broadcast without prior warning. The Bureau diverted the ROSET from other coverage on 15-22 April to see if the evening Vietnamese press facsimile transmission on the 80 East Soviet satellite would be productive. Unfortunately, the service did not carry any NHAN DAN or other press items during this period. No television feeds were noted either. Okinawa Bureau agreed to protectively backstop record several Hanoi Radio casts. Lengthy daily broadcasts texted by the Bureau listing the winning candidates commenced the 21st and lasted most of the rest of the month.

-2-

3. At MOD request, the Bureau filed a week's worth of program summaries from the Sri Lankan clandestine radio Voice of Tamil Eelam early in the month. On the 22d, an open speaker watch was instituted on Sri Lankan media following the terrorist bomb explosion at the central bus terminal in Colombo. Numerous FYIs and radio behavior FYIs were sent, including reports on the expanded broadcasting instituted by the Tamil clandestine station. The Bureau's lone Tamil monitor was kept very busy covering this clandestine. The Bureau was prepared to stay past normal COB on several occasions, but the Colombo radios, including the clandestine Tamil station, decided to close near the Bureau's regular closure time. The ROSET dish, which had been used during the evenings to check for possible Vietnamese election material, was kept on the 60 East Intelsat and provided a number of unique items from the Sri Lankan press agency LANKA PUWATH. The open watch was discontinued on the 24th, although numerous priority items continued to be filed for some time.

4. In the midst of the Sri Lanka affair it was necessary for the Bureau to simultaneously cover the preparations for and the holding of the 24 April Indonesian parliamentary elections. Both ROSET antennas were pressed into service -- one covering the Indonesian press agency and television transmissions (as well as Malaysian TV) from the Palapa satellite, and the other continuing the Bureau's priority coverage of the 60 East Intelsat for the Sri Lanka press agency. This arrangement was maintained from 23-27 April. The ROSET showed its usefulness by enabling the Bureau to file periodic election results, which for the most part appeared first on Indonesian Television.

5. On the 26th, the clandestine station Voice of the People of Malaysia suddenly announced it would cease operation as of the 27th. The radio has not been heard since. Whether the closure is permanent is hard to say at this point, but is no doubt connected with the mass surrender to Thai authorities on 28 April of a large number of Communist Party of Malaysia insurgents who had been operating in the jungle along the Thai-Malaysian border for many years.

B. Cruising

1. Staff Cruiser [redacted] with the help in recent months of local satellite cruiser [redacted], completed the in-depth listing of the characteristics of all signals encountered on the satellites in the look angle of Bangkok's ROSET. This exhaustive compilation -- [redacted] -- took a year and a half to put together. Copies were pouched to MOD, Engineering Support Group, and Okinawa Bureau. STAT
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SIAT

2. The new satellite placed in geosynchronous orbit at 113 degrees east last month was assumed to be Indonesia's new Palapa, however, it was not until the 16th that a positive identification was possible. On that date a television transponder was tested using an Indonesian station logo. So far the satellite still appears to be in the testing mode, and no media transmissions have been observed.

-3-

C. Technical

1. The rainy season appears to have started with the advent of a large storm on 28 April which caused power outages at the Bureau and at Bang Ping. During this storm two of the HF antennas at Bang Ping were struck by lightning destroying the matching transformers. The transformers have been replaced and the antennas are now operational.

2. New Equipment:

- a. ADC Visual Processor V-500X, SN. 61002346.
- b. Toshiba Color TV/Monitor, Model 159X4Y, SNs. 74259327, 74259799.
- c. Pioneer Stereo Double Cassette Deck, MDL. CT-S99WR(BK), SN. 9307959.

III. ADMINISTRATION

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A. Personnel

1. Administrative Assistant [redacted] was promoted to FBN 10 effective 26 April.

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2. Editorial trainee [redacted] departed Bangkok on 6 April after a successful TDY.

3. Bureau Chief [redacted] returned from the Bureau Chiefs Conference on 9 April.

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4. [redacted] were on R&R travel to Australia 16-29 April.

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B. Buildings and Grounds

1. The improvements and repairs to the basement at Bang Ping have been completed. These consisted of removing the old concrete floor and replacing it with a floating floor that is not attached to the building main structure. This type of flooring was installed to prevent it from cracking as the floor sinks (at a rate of approximately 5 cm per year). The floor was then finished with three coats of epoxy paint to improve appearance and control the dust. Also, shelving has been installed for better storage and control of the Bureau paper products and furniture that are stored at Bang Ping.

2. Delegation of authority has been received from Hqts for the purchase and installation of a 48-line internal telephone system. This will update and consolidate the Bureau's existing three separate telephone systems. The contract has been given to International Engineering Co. Ltd., the local representative of ITT.

✓ 3. Renovation of the teletype room was started on 28 April. Renovation will consist of new flooring, walls and furniture. This work is being done in anticipation of the Bureau automation program scheduled to start mid-July 1987.

-4-

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C. Visits

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Deputy Chief-Designate [] and his wife [] visited the Bureau 25-30 April since he will not have any overlap with [] during the summer changeover.

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D. Other

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The Bureau hosted a party on 30 April at shift change to celebrate [] visit and to lift a glass in commemoration of the Bureau's 20th anniversary. Exotic foods appeared from nowhere and the whole affair was topped off with mangoes and sticky rice. The charter members of the Bureau: technician [] admin assistant [] monitors [] teletypist [] and monitor [] were given particular recognition. Interestingly, the first five hired are still working at the Bureau.

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[]
Chief, Bangkok Bureau

Attachment: Monthly Production Report
RMB/cia

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BANGKOK BUREAU-PRODUCTION REPORT FOR APRIL 1987

I. TOTALS FROM ALL SOURCES:

TOTAL PUBLISHABLE WORDAGE FILED DURING MONTH:	762,810
TOTAL NON-PUBLISHABLE WORDAGE FILED DURING MONTH:	240,430
TOTAL NUMBER OF PUBLISHABLE ITEMS FILED DURING MONTH:	1,596

	<u>BROAD- CASTS</u>	<u>PRESS AGENCIES</u>	<u>PUBLI- CATION</u>
II. <u>INPUT OF REGULAR COVERAGE:</u> (minutes or issues per week)	22,045 min.	28,890 min.	267.00 issues

III. OUTPUT FROM ROSET SOURCES:
(publishable words per month)INDIA

Delhi General Overseas Service in English	1,000
Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English	1,040
Delhi Domestic Service in English	41,500
Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in Hindi	230

INDONESIA

Jakarta TVRI Television Network in Indonesian	1,690
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MALAYSIA

Kuala Lumpur RTM Television Network 1 in Malay	260
Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English	11,890

SRI LANKA

Colombo Lanka Puwath in English	16,630
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IV. OUTPUT FROM ALL OTHER SOURCES:
(publishable words per month)AUSTRALIA

Melbourne Overseas Service in English	19,470
Sydney THE AUSTRALIAN in English	0
Sydney THE BULLETIN in English	0

	BROAD- CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI- CATION
<u>AUSTRALIA</u> (continued)			
Sydney THE WEEKEND AUSTRALIAN in English			0
<u>BANGLADESH</u>			
Dhaka Overseas Service in English	1,000		
Dhaka Overseas Service in Bengali	0		
Dhaka Domestic Service in English	4,550		
Dhaka Domestic Service in Bengali	0		
Dhaka BSS in English		0	
Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English			1,900
Dhaka SANGBAD in Bengali			0
<u>BRUNEI</u>			
Kuala Belait THE BORNEO BULLETIN in English			120
<u>BURMA</u>			
Rangoon Domestic Service in English	0		
Rangoon Domestic Service in Burmese	6,410		
Rangoon WORKING PEOPLE'S DAILY in English			120
Rangoon BOTATAUNG in Burmese			0
Rangoon LOKTHA PYEITHU NEZIN in Burmese			0
Rangoon MYANMA ALIN in Burmese			0
<u>CAMBODIA</u>			
Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian	22,230		
Phnom Penh SPK in English		10,300	
Phnom Penh SPK in French to KPL Vientiane		0	
Phnom Penh SPK in French		3,090	
Phnom Penh VNA in Vietnamese to VNA Hanoi		0	
Phnom Penh VNA in French to VNA Hanoi		0	

BROAD- CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI- CATION
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CHINA

Beijing International Service in Bengali	270	
Beijing International Service in Burmese	710	
Beijing International Service in Indonesian	0	
Beijing International Service in Lao	0	
Beijing International Service in Thai	370	
Beijing in Cambodian to Cambodia	0	
Beijing in Hindi to India	260	
Beijing in Malay to Malaysia	0	
Beijing in Urdu to India and Pakistan	0	

CLANDESTINE

(Clandestine) Voice of Tamil Eelam in English	1,970	
(Clandestine) Voice of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian	19,460	
(Clandestine) Voice of Malayan Democracy in Malay	1,190	
(Clandestine) Voice of the Khmer in Cambodian	6,740	
(Clandestine) Voice of the National Army Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian	17,410	
(Clandestine) Voice of the People of Burma in Burmese	2,680	
(Clandestine) Voice of the People of Malaysia in Malay	1,940	
(Clandestine) Voice of Tamil Eelam in Tamil	6,330	

HONG KONG

Hong Kong AFP in English	96,110	
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INDIA

Delhi General Overseas Service in English	8,900	
Delhi Domestic Service in English	44,680	
Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English	1,040	

	BROAD- CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI- CATION
<u>INDIA (continued)</u>			
Delhi Domestic Service in Hindi	0		
Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in Hindi	230		
Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English		1,160	
Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English			1,990
Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English			0
Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English			3,900
Delhi NATIONAL HERALD in English			0
Delhi PATRIOT in English			5,260
Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English			5,470
Delhi THE HINDU in English			5,300
Delhi INDIA TODAY in English			0
Calcutta ANANDA BAZAR PATRIKA in Bengali			0
<u>INDONESIA</u>			
Jakarta International Service in English	3,140		
Jakarta Domestic Service in Indonesian	8,740		
Jakarta TVRI Television Network in Indonesian	1,690		
Jakarta JAKARTA POST in English			3,250
Jakarta THE INDONESIA TIMES in English			540
Jakarta BERITA BUANA in Indonesian			0
Jakarta KOMPAS in Indonesian			900
Jakarta MERDEKA in Indonesian			720
Jakarta TEMPO in Indonesian			0
Jakarta SUARA PEMBARUAN in Indonesian			1,320
<u>LAOS</u>			
Vientiane Domestic Service in Laos	26,310		
Vientiane KPL in English		17,900	
Vientiane KPL in English to SPK Phnom Penh			0

	BROAD- CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI- CATION
<u>LAOS (continued)</u>			
Vientiane KPL in French to SPK Phnom Penh		0	
Vientiane SPK in French to SPK Phnom Penh		0	
Vientiane VNA in Vietnamese to VNA Hanoi		0	
Vientiane PASASON in Lao			0
Vientiane VIENTIANE MAI in Lao			0
<u>MALAYSIA</u>			
Kuala Lumpur International Service in English	7,160		
Kuala Lumpur Domestic Service in English	970		
Kuala Lumpur Domestic Service in Malay	1,310		
Kuala Lumpur RTM Television Network 1 in Malay	260		
Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English		11,890	
Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English			1,980
Kuala Lumpur NEW SUNDAY TIMES in English			0
Kuala Lumpur BERITA HARIAN in Malay			2,600
Kuala Lumpur BERITA MINGGU in Malay			0
Kuala Lumpur MINGGUAN MALAYSIA in Malay			0
Kuala Lumpur UTUSAN MALAYSIA in Malay			340
<u>NEPAL</u>			
Kathmandu External Service in English	0		
Kathmandu THE RISING NEPAL in English			160
<u>NEW ZEALAND</u>			
Auckland THE NEW ZEALAND HERALD in English			650
<u>PAKISTAN</u>			
Karachi Overseas Service in English	1,150		
Karachi Overseas Service in Urdu	0		
Karachi Domestic Service in English	3,770		

	BROAD- CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI- CATION
<u>PAKISTAN (continued)</u>			
Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu	17,980		
Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English			8,400
Karachi DAWN in English			0
Islamabad THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English			0
Karachi JASARAT in Urdu			0
Karachi MASHRIQ in Urdu			0
Rawalpindi HAIDER in Urdu			0
Lahore Jang in Urdu			0
Karachi NAWA-E WAQT in Urdu			0
<u>SINGAPORE</u>			
Singapore Domestic Service in English	1,360		
Singapore THE STRAITS TIMES in English			2,090
Singapore THE SUNDAY TIMES in English			0
<u>SRI LANKA</u>			
Colombo International Service in English	6,820		
Colombo International Service in Hindi	490		
Colombo Domestic Service in English	1,890		
Colombo Domestic Service in Tamil	0		
Colombo Lanka Puwath in English		16,630	
Colombo DAILY NEWS in English			3,710
Colombo SUN in English			2,190
Colombo WEEKEND in English			0
<u>THAILAND</u>			
Bangkok Voice of Free Asia in English	430		
Bangkok Voice of Free Asia in Cambodian	0		
Bangkok Voice of Free Asia in Lao	0		

	<u>BROAD- CASTS</u>	<u>PRESS AGENCIES</u>	<u>PUBLI- CATION</u>
<u>THAILAND (continued)</u>			
Bangkok Voice of Free Asia in Thai	5,110		
Bangkok Voice of Free Asia in Vietnamese	0		
Bangkok Domestic Service in English	3,950		
Bangkok Domestic Service in Thai	12,190		
Bangkok First Army Division Radio in Thai	860		
Bangkok Television Service in Thai	1,190		
Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English			39,140
Bangkok BANGKOK WORLD in English			8,190
Bangkok THE NATION in English			59,940
Bangkok KHAO PHISSET in Thai			0
Bangkok LAK THAI in Thai			450
Bangkok MATICHON in Thai			3,260
Bangkok MATICHON SUT SAPDA in Thai			940
Bangkok NAED NA in Thai			3,150
Bangkok SIAM RAT in Thai			5,060
Bangkok SIAM RAT SAPDA WICHAN in Thai			950
Bangkok SU ANAKHOT in Thai			0
Bangkok THAI RAT in Thai			1,880
Bangkok ZHONG HUA RIBAO in Chinese			1,700
Bangkok XING XIAN RIBAO in Chinese			70
Bangkok XIN ZHONG YUAN RIBAO in Chinese			130
<u>UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS</u>			
Moscow International Service in Tamil	0		
Moscow in Bengali to Bangladesh	190		
Moscow in Burmese to Burma	0		
Moscow in Cambodian to Cambodia	900		
Moscow in Hindi to India	1,120		

BROAD- CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI- CATION
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UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS (continued)

Moscow in Indonesian to Indonesia	0	
Moscow in Lao to Laos	0	
Moscow in Thai to Thailand	0	
Moscow in Urdu to India	0	
Moscow in Urdu to Pakistan	0	
Moscow Radio Peace and Progress in Indonesian	0	

UNITED KINGDOM

London BBC World Service in English	0	
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VIETNAM

Hanoi International Service in English	8,560	
Hanoi International Service in Cambodian	0	
Hanoi International Service in Thai	1,580	
Hanoi Domestic Service, in Vietnamese	125,650	
Hanoi VNA in English		4,480
Hanoi NHAN DAN in Vietnamese		7,710
Hanoi QUAN DOI NHAN DAN in Vietnamese		0
Hanoi TAP CHI CONG SAN in Vietnamese		3,160
Hanoi TAP CHI QUAN DOI NHAN DAN in Vietnamese		0